



## Safeguarding Newsletter—Autumn Term 1 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing the children at the beginning of the new academic year.

All staff at Belle Vue have a responsibility to safeguard children but just a reminder to you that we have the following designated staff in place with responsibility for safeguarding:

Mrs. C Davies—Designated Safeguarding lead  
Mrs. S Richardson—Deputy Safeguarding lead  
Mrs. A Perrett—Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs. C Mulligan—Deputy Safeguarding lead

Governor responsible for safeguarding: Mrs. A Potter and Mrs. S Rose

If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child/children please contact the school immediately on 01384 389900 or email [info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk). **If you suspect a child is in immediate danger please ring 999. If you have a concern during holiday time, please email [safeguarding@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk)**

### Keeping Children Safe In Education, September 2023

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document which all schools must follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: -

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

**All** staff at Belle Vue Primary School receive annual training during the beginning of the autumn term. Training covers updates to KCSIE, September 2023, knowing who the designated staff are for child protection and reporting procedures. In addition, staff are taught how to look for signs of the following types of abuse:

1. Physical
2. Sexual
3. Emotional
4. Neglect

There have been a small number of changes to KCSIE 2023. For parental information, one of the main additions is that ALL schools should ensure there are effective filtering and monitoring systems in place to keep children safe when online. The DSL is responsible for ensuring this. Our IT providers—Network IT 24—have facilitated this so that our devices all have filters and monitor for suspicious/harmful activity. Should anything be picked up, the DSL receives a report and this is addressed immediately.

Thankyou to the parents who attended the Parent E-Safety awareness session held in the summer term. This session was recorded and the link sent out to parents/carers via email. I hope for those of you who have watched the video, you found the information useful.



### **Child-on-Child Abuse**

Child-on-child abuse occurs when a child or young person is exploited, bullied and/or harmed by others of the same or similar age. The impact of this behaviour on children can be very distressing and have an impact on academic achievement and emotional health and wellbeing.

Child-on-child abuse is most likely to include, but is not limited to:

- ◆ Bullying (including cyber-bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- ◆ Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair-pulling or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)
- ◆ Emotional abuse – on or offline
- ◆ Abuse in intimate relationships between peers
- ◆ Sexual violence and sexual harassment - this can occur between two children of any age and sex or a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.
- ◆ Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- ◆ Up skirting, which typically involves taking a picture underneath someone's clothing without their permission to obtain sexual gratification or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm
- ◆ Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- ◆ Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals which could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person in to a group and may also include an online element.

### **How do we support children in school?**

All children who attend Belle Vue Primary School are encouraged to talk to an adult if they have a worry/concern. Teachers and teaching assistants 'check-in' daily with their classes ensuring that children are in the right frame of mind to learn.

As well as our Designated Lead and Deputy Designated Leads, we have a Family Support Officer. Mrs Slater is our FSO and her role is to support children as well as our families. If you would like to know more about her role, please look on the school's website. Mrs Slater also includes valuable information on our fortnightly newsletters.



### **Dudley CAMHS—Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service**

Did you know our school SENCo, Mrs Hodson, can make a referral to CAMHS should your child require it? If you feel you need support in this area, please contact Mrs Hodson either by phone or email for further information to [info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk)

Please note, in order to refer a child to CAMHS, parental/carers consent must be obtained and the school must be able to provide evidence to support the referral.

For more information on the services provided please click on the following link:

<https://www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/dudley-camhs>